

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 DHA-02 /065 W

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R 021045Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4365

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3142

FOLLOWING TEL CALCUTTA 0533 DTD 02 MAR 76 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 0533

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PORS

SUBJ: NAXALITE JAIL BREAK

1. WEST BENGAL INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE RANJIT GUPTA
APPEARED AT SOCIAL FUNCTION EVENING MARCH 1 AND TOLD
CONSULAR OFFICER THAT THIRTY-SEVEN "TOP NAXALITES" ESCAPED
FROM PRESIDENCY JAIL IN THE FEBRUARY 24 BREAKOUT. HE SAID
THREE HAVE BEEN RECAPTURED (IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER
THESE THREE WERE PART OF THE THIRTY-SEVEN, OR WHETHER
TOTAL WAS FORTY AND THIRTY-SEVEN REMAIN AT LARGE).

2. GUPTA DEPLORED THE OFFICIAL SILENCE AND THE EFFORT TO
HUSH UP THE BREAKOUT. HE SAID LACK OF PUBLICITY IS HAM-
PERING POLICE EFFORTS TO APPREHEND THE ESCAPEES AND AT
SAME TIME IS GIVING RISE TO ALL SORTS OF WILD RUMORS.
ONE OF THE UNFOUNDED RUMORS, GUPTA SAID, WAS THAT THERE
HAD BEEN A BREAKOUT FROM DUM DUM PRISON. "ABSOLUTELY
NOT," SAID GUPTA, "THAT'S MY TERRITORY." (PRESIDENCY
JAIL, BEING IN CALCUTTA, COMES UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF
CALCUTTA POLICE COMMISSIONER SUNIL CHAUDHURY, WHILE
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EVERYTHING OUTSIDE CALCUTTA IS UNDER GUPTA; THERE IS

NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN THE TWO MEN.)

3. GUPTA DECLINED TO SPECULATE WHAT NEXT MOVE OF THE
NAXALITES MIGHT BE BUT SAID AUTHORITIES ARE CONFIDENT
THAT THE JAILBREAK WOULD POSE NO SECURITY THREAT AS FAR
AS MRS. GANDHI'S MARCH 1-2 VISIT TO CALCUTTA IS
CONCERNED.

KORN

UNQUOTE

SAXBE

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